



Work Zone Emphasis Patrol 2005

Why?



Washington State
Department of Transportation

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NEWS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WSDOT Work Zone Crews in Collisions Statewide

OLYMPIA – The highway construction season just began and already statewide, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) crews have experienced four work zone related collisions in five days.

"We're so thankful no one was critically injured or killed," said Transportation Secretary Doug MacDonald. "But it's early in the construction season and we need everyone to be on the lookout for our workers in orange."

- The first incident occurred last Wednesday morning, May 18, in Olympia, when a vehicle on northbound I-5 struck one of the department's bumper trucks. The maintenance technician (tech) driving the truck was not injured.
- The next incident occurred last Friday, May 20, on I-5 just south of Woodland at the Clark/Cowlitz county line. A maintenance tech was working the backup of an accident scene when a semi truck struck his vehicle. The maintenance tech experienced back pain and was transported to a medical facility for examination. Although released, the WSDOT employee suffered some back and leg injuries.
- Later that same Friday, a roving Incident Response (IR) driver, was struck in his state vehicle while patrolling southbound I-405, at the off-ramp from southbound SR 167 in King County. The tech just slowing down in traffic when a jeep rear-ended him. The IR driver was not injured.
- Late last night (Sunday), a maintenance crew placing pavement markers on I-5 in Lewis County, one mile south of Chehalis, experienced a scare when a driver burrowed past two traffic control vehicles warning of a lane closure and plowed into their bumper truck. The maintenance tech driving the truck escaped injury.

"Every year thousands of collisions occur in Washington State work zones, mainly because of speeding and inattentive driving" explained Chief John R. Batiste. "We ask that citizens be aware of work zones and slow down when passing through them."

Washington State Work Zone Facts

- Total miles of state highways: 7048

- Total number of work zone property damage, injury and fatality collisions/accidents 1999- 2003: **5521**
- Number of persons killed in work zone collisions/accidents 1999 – 2003: **41**
- Number of persons injured in work zone collisions/accidents 1999 – 2003: **3709**
- The number of persons injured in a work zone collision/accident has steadily declined from a high of 1,057 in 1999 to a low of 473 in 2003.
- The leading causes of work zone collisions/accidents 1999 – 2003 includes, rear-ending (3,138), stuck fixed object (739) and sideswipes (508).
- For WSDOT personnel and contractors, 1999 – 2003, nearly 50% of all injuries and fatalities occurred to workers performing flagging operations.

Work zone survival tips for motorists

- Slow down, pay attention, and stay calm. Work zones aren't there to personally inconvenience you. They're there to improve the roads for everyone.
- Merge as soon as possible. Motorists can help keep traffic flowing by moving to the appropriate lane at first notice of an approaching work zone.
- Try an alternate route.
- Expect delays. Plan for them and leave early to reach your destination on time.
- Some work zones – like line painting, road patching, and mowing – are mobile. Just because you don't see workers immediately after you see the warning signs doesn't mean they're not there.
- Observe the posted signs until you see the one that says "END ROAD WORK."

"We know that nationally 85 percent of work zone collisions result in death or injuries to the drivers and occupants," said MacDonald. "So as we continue through this construction season we ask the public to slow down – give 'em a brake – give yourself a brake."

For more information about work zone safety visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/brake.

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What is Work Zone Emphasis Patrol?



- Five troopers monitor a work zone for five hours.
- Drivers exceeding the posted speed limit through a construction zone will be cited and charged with speeding though a construction zone.
- These fines add up to double a non-work zone speeding violation

Smokey Point



SR 16 Media Event

“The Infractionators”

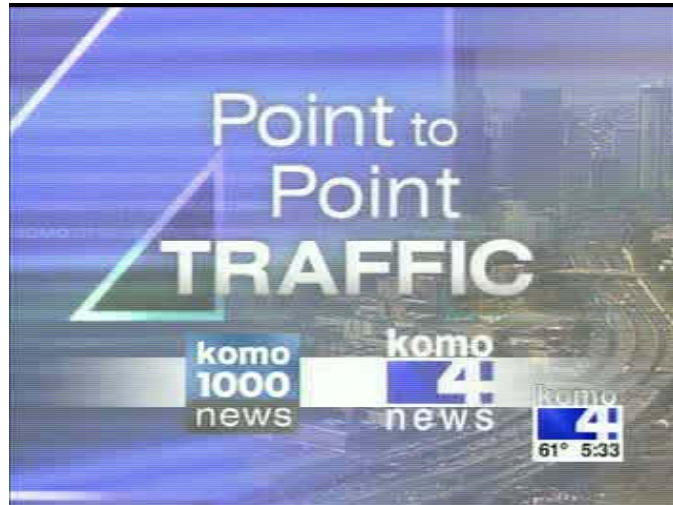


Results

	I-5 MP 206	SR 16 @ Jackson St	I-5 Maytown
Speed Infractions	96	68	**10
Double Fines	*3	69	10
Other Citations	0	7	7
Total Citations	96	75	17
Total Contacts	113	76	49
* Troopers did not feel the “double the fine” signs were well placed therefore were not comfortable citing for double fines. ** Troopers arrested 6 people with drug paraphernalia.			



Media Coverage?



Next Events

Week of December 13 in Nisqually Washington

Week of December 30 in Tacoma Washington

For more information contact [Lisa Murdock](#)

Questions, comments. etc

